

VZCZCXRO9739  
PP RUEHPA  
DE RUEHDK #0876/01 1011643  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
P 111643Z APR 06  
FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4806  
INFO RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE  
RUEHKE/AMEMBASSY KINSHASA 0169  
RUEHLC/AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE 0870  
RUEHTRO/USLO TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 DAKAR 000876

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE FOR AF/W, AF/SPG, AF/C, NEA/MAG AND EUR/WE  
ABUJA PLS PASS TO AMBASSADOR RANNEBERGER  
KINSHASA FOR BRAZZAVILLE OFFICE  
PARIS FOR POL - D'ELIA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/10/2011  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PINR](#) [PGOV](#) [EINV](#) [FR](#) [LY](#) [SU](#) [SG](#)  
SUBJECT: THE "LIBYAN GUIDE" GIVES PLENTY OF GUIDANCE TO  
SENEGAL

DAKAR 00000876 001.2 OF 002

Classified By: DCM Robert P. Jackson for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

#### SUMMARY

1. (C) President Wade celebrated Senegal's 46th anniversary of independence surrounded by five other African heads of state, but the presence of Mouammar Qadhafi drew the most fanfare. Foreign Minister Gadio told the Ambassador during her introductory call that there was no discussion of Sudan or other contentious issues. In typical fashion, Qadhafi came bearing promises of USD 2 billion in investments and the tallest tower in Africa and pushed for reparations from France, a united states of Africa, a single African army, and a presidency without a term limit. So far, however, his promises remain theoretical, and his policy pronouncements stirred controversy. END SUMMARY.

#### QADHAFI PRESIDES

2. (C) In the days before Qadhafi arrived in Dakar, 30-foot posters of him sprang up around town. The "Libyan Guide," as they call him, was the real guest of honor at the Independence Day festivities on April 4. He spent that day and the next laying the cornerstone for a 50-floor tower to be built with Libyan financing and addressing the National Assembly and thousands of Senegalese women. The government-run newspaper, "Le Soleil," printed tribute after tribute to this "friend of Senegal," mentioning in passing the presence of the Presidents of the Congo, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, and Cape Verde. Indeed, Qadhafi was the only visiting African leader permitted to make a speech on Independence Day. He used the opportunity to tell the Senegalese that Wade should be president for life and that they should demand compensation for having been colonized by France and reparations for the soldiers who fought for France in World War I and II. In a very insightful reply, President Wade noted that his father had fought in World War I and had pursued a pension in the French courts for 35 years, which may explain why Wade trained as a lawyer and why he is so unwavering once he sets his mind on something. The French Charge and military representatives were visibly unhappy with the remarks and boycotted the Senegalese military reception that followed the four-hour parade. Not only the French were upset by the spectacle though. The other four heads of state, who sat in the sun waiting 30 minutes for Qadhafi to arrive and another 20 for Wade, were reportedly furious about the poor treatment they received, especially since Sassou-Nguesso

is entitled to higher billing as African Union President.

#### QADHAFI AVOIDS CONTENTIOUS ISSUES

-----

13. (C) When Ambassador Jacobs paid her introductory visit on Senior Minister for Foreign Affairs Cheikh Tidiane Gadio on April 7, the Minister said that there had been no bilateral discussions about Darfur during Qadhafi's visit. According to Gadio, "Both sides were trying to avoid discussion of contentious issues." Gadio added that Senegal remains committed to re-hatting the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS).

#### QADHAFI PROMISES MUCH

-----

14. (U) For the most attention-generating event during the visit, the Libyan leader put in place the first stone of "Qadhafi Tower," billed to become the tallest tower in Africa. According to Abdoulaye Balde, Secretary General at the Presidency and National Agency for the Organization of the Islamic Conference (ANOCI) officials, the tower will cost USD 250 million. Ambassador Ahmed Khalifa Niasse, special advisor to President Wade, added that the tower will take two to four years to build and will be visible as far away as The Gambia. Niasse told "Le Soleil" that Niasse fought hard to get the tower built in Senegal and that it is part of a USD 2 billion plan for Libyan investment, including a new airport (although he said he "could not speak about the airport before President Wade").

15. (U) Qadhafi also addressed a gathering of women, to whom he promised laws protecting them from divorce. At the National Assembly, he called for a unified Africa, a regional army for the continent and a presidency for life. He said he is against constitutions limiting the mandate of heads of state and said presidents should be allowed to stay in power as long as possible if that is the will of the people. This

DAKAR 00000876 002.2 OF 002

last pronouncement led to vigorous debate in the media.

#### QADHAFI DISAPPOINTS

-----

16. (C) Despite the grand investment scheme Qadhafi may have brought with him, one Embassy contact in the National Association of Architects told us there is no blueprint or study for the tower and no money yet to build it. The GOS has not yet decided on a site, though it will require five hectares of land. An embassy source at APIX, the government investment agency, said no investment or actual promise of investment has flowed in from Libya as a result of Qadhafi's visit. Moreover, Qadhafi donated no aid, something which, according to at least one newspaper, caused great disappointment among many expecting handouts.

#### COMMENT

-----

17. (C) A quick call to the Foreign Ministry revealed that it had little involvement with Qadhafi's visit. Staff at the Ministry said the visit was handled almost entirely by the Presidency. For all the posters and articles glorifying Qadhafi, it is probable that his visit was orchestrated to bring maximum glory and exposure to President Wade. One can imagine Wade's appreciation for Qadhafi's push for presidents for life. END COMMENT.

18. (U) Minimize considered.  
JACKSON